

Millard County Economic Events

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The federal government has designated the entire state of Utah a natural disaster area as a result of prolonged drought conditions, insect infestations and high winds. The designation makes farmers in all 29 counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency. Utah is in its fifth year of drought, and the USDA's Palmer drought index ranked the state the nation's driest. What's being offered is low-interest loans and possible future assistance when it is made available by federal and state agencies. *Deseret News*, 7/2/03

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will send over \$218 million this year to local governments under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act. The BLM will distribute PILT funding to compensate almost 1,900 local governments in Fiscal Year 2003 because of the presence of Federal lands in those jurisdictions that are not subject to local taxes. In 2003 the PILT Payments for Utah is \$18,656,877. Millard County received \$705,854. *Gunnison Valley News*, 6/25/03

The Utah Permanent Community Impact Board has awarded a \$310,000 loan to Holden for building a 300,000-gallon water storage tank and for exploration and improvements to an existing spring. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4/7/03

The Utah Permanent Community Impact Board has awarded a \$1.5 loan to the Oakley City Municipal Building Authority to build a recreation complex with soccer fields, softball diamonds, indoor and outdoor rodeo arenas, jogging trails, and recreational vehicle area. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4/7/03

The Intermountain Power Agency, which operates power plants in Millard County had its credit raised by Fitch Ratings before a planned \$310 million bond sale. The upgrade reflects considerable cost reductions at its generating facility in recent years. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 3/5/03

About 40 men from Fillmore, Delta, Holden and other Millard-County towns were among those called to active duty last fall leaving a void in the county's labor force. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1/19/03

The Intermountain Power Agency is continuing to work on plans to build a third power generation unit at its plant near Delta—a project that will take years to complete. The cost of producing electricity at IPP dipped to \$42.11 per megawatt-hour during 2002. The dollar amount is down from \$62 in 1996, thanks to various cost-saving measures. Most of the third unit's generation will likely be used by Utah municipalities. Participants in the third unit would be owners of the unit. *Deseret News*. 12/04/02

Work is progressing on the renovation of the Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum in Fillmore. Funds for the half-million dollar project came from the Legislature with no federal aid. Improvements include an updated electrical system, fire-suppression system, orientation room and new offices. *Salt Lake Tribune, 11/18/02*

Rural Utah counties preparing budgets for next year may face cutbacks in federal PILT funds. Since 1977, the federal government has provided "payment in lieu of taxes" funds to counties with large tracts of nontaxable federal land. The federal budget for 2003 has yet to be approved, and President Bush wants to cut PILT money by 23.5 percent. Utah is fifth in the nation in PILT funding, behind California. In 2002, Utah received more than \$16 million. *Deseret News, 10/15/02*

Utah ranchers, hit hard by drought, will soon receive millions of dollars in immediate federal aid. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would release \$752 million in cash to relieve drought-stricken livestock in 37 states. Utah is one of seven states that has declared a statewide drought disaster, and therefore, will qualify for a large share of the money. *Salt Lake Tribune, 09/20/02*

Aviacode is hoping to get 100 employees through a just-announce "Smart Site" program in Delta and Fillmore. Initial training would focus on medical coding training. The company is read to hire up to 100 people who can get training and certification. *Deseret News, 8/20/02*